

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13942

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNGA, HR, JA, US
SUBJECT: U.S.-JAPAN PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS
AND RELATED ISSUES

1. IN US-JAPAN PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS AUGUST 1, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES POINTED OUT PROGRESS MADE IN UN ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF THEIR LEGITIMIZATION AS INTERNATIONAL CONCERN. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS SUCCESS REPRESENTED ONLY TIP OF ICEBERG, WHILE INDIFFERENCE AND DOUBLE STANDARDS CONTINUED TO CHARACTERIZE OVERALL UN APPROACH TO THESE QUESTIONS. UN BUREAU DIRGEN OKAWA SAID JAPAN SHARED US CONCERN FOR ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND AGREED ON NATURE OF PROBLEMS CONFRONTING UN IN THIS AREA.

2. MAYNES SAID U.S. WOULD LIKE TO SEE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FOCUS ATTENTION MORE EFFECTIVELY ON PROBLEM OF TORTURE AND WOULD FAVOR MORE INTENSIVE COMMISSION ACTIVITY TO THAT END. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT JAPAN CONSIDER RUNNING FOR SEAT ON COMMISSION AT SPRING 1979 ECOSOC SESSION WHEN FOUR ASIAN SEATS BECOME VACANT. OKAWA SAID JAPAN HAD CONSIDERED SUBMITTING ITS CANDIDACY, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO EXAMINE QUESTION.

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3. IN VIEW OF PROLIFERATING HUMAN RIGHTS INTERESTS WITHIN UN AND CONSEQUENT PROBLEM OF COORDINATING TOTAL UN HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORT, MAYNES SAID US WAS CONSIDERING ADVISABILITY OF PROPOSING ITEM FOR 33RD UNGA AGENDA CALLING FOR POSSIBLE GA ROLE IN REVIEW OF HR PROGRAMS. OKAWA SAID JAPANESE AGREED MULTIPLICITY OF HR CONCERNS REQUIRED BETTER

COORDINATION, AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN OUR POSSIBLE PROPOSALS. JUN MINISTER OGATA WONDERED WHETHER WE ENVISAGED HR COMMISSION AS MAJOR MECHANISM FOR MONITORING UN HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. MAYNES SAID WE SAW IT NOT AS CONTROL DEVICE BUT SIMPLY AS INSTRUMENT TO BRING PIECES INTO CLEARER FOCUS.

4. OTHER AREAS OF CONCERN:

-- BOAT REFUGEES:

MAYNES SAID U.S. WAS CONSIDERING INTRODUCING RESOLUTION IN UPCOMING GA ADDRESSING PLIGHT OF BOAT PEOPLE. IN DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION, MAYNES SAID U.S. WAS THINKING IN TERMS OF RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD CALL ATTENTION TO PROBLEM IN GENERAL TERMS AND URGE THAT MEMBER NATIONS TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO EASE SITUATION. RESOLUTION WOULD NOT BE CONDEMNATORY IN NATURE. OKAWA POINTED TO JAPANESE CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNHCR AS EVIDENCE OF GOJ CONCERN. HE REACTED CAUTIOUSLY BUT NOT NEGATIVELY TO IDEA OF RESOLUTION ON THIS SUBJECT, EMPHASIZING THAT GOJ WOULD HAVE TO SEE EXACT WORDING PROPOSED BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO SUPPORT.

-- ZIONISM AS FORM OF RACISM:

MAYNES REVIEWED IMPLICATIONS OF RESOLUTION 3379, AND EMPHASIZED SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH IT WAS VIEWED BY USG
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AND AMERICAN PEOPLE. WE HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT DISTURBED BY GOJ ABSTENTION ON RESOLUTION, AND HOPED THAT, SHOULD IT AGAIN BE INTRODUCED, JAPANESE WOULD RECONSIDER ISSUE AND VOTE AGAINST. OKAWA REVIEWED GOJ DECISION TO ABSTAIN LAST TIME, NOTING THAT THERE HAD BEEN HEAVY PRESSURE FROM ALL SIDES, AND EXPRESSED HOPE, WHICH MAYNES EMPHASIZED WE SHARED, THAT RESOLUTION WOULD NOT COME UP AGAIN. LATER IN DISCUSSION, OKAWA SAID THAT SHOULD RESOLUTION BE REINTRODUCED, GOJ AGAIN PROBABLY WOULD HAVE TO ABSTAIN. MIDEAST BUREAU DIRECTOR GENERAL CHIBA ALSO SAID DURING DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST ISSUES THAT JAPAN WOULD AGAIN ABSTAIN.

-- CHILE:

BOTH SIDES PERCEIVED IMPROVEMENT IN CHILEAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION, AND AGREED THAT NATION'S PERFORMANCE SHOULD BE VIEWED IN MORE BALANCED PERSPECTIVE.

-- KAMPUCHEA:

MAYNES ASKED JAPANESE TO CONSIDER WAYS TO MOVE ON ISSUE OF HR VIOLATIONS IN KAMPACHEA. HE NOTED RAISING MATTER WITH CHINESE MIGHT BE ONE POSSIBLE APPROACH. OKAWA SAID GOJ

DID NOT HAVE CLEAR VIEW AS TO HOW TO PROCEED.

-- UNESCO MEDIA DECLARATION:

OKAWA SAID GOJ SHARED OUR CONCERN. MANSFIELD

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